

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling ~~[[the]]~~ partial pressure of oxygen when mutually separating minerals from a slurry containing valuable minerals in ~~[[the]]~~ different process steps of ~~[[the]]~~ a separation process, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ in order to control the partial pressure of oxygen, the method comprising, recirculating ~~[[the]]~~ gases fed in the different process steps ~~are recirculated~~ in an essentially closed gas circulation created around ~~[[the]]~~ equipment used in the different process steps, ~~so that the controlling~~ gas recirculation is ~~controlled~~ by measuring ~~[[the]]~~ potential of the valuable minerals in the slurry containing valuable minerals.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein the process is provided with equipment required is for~~ ~~[[the]]~~transferring and recirculating gas transfer and recirculation.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The method according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein the process is provided with equipment comprises a~~ recirculation pipework, at least with one fan and a storage tank.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ in the recirculation of gases, ~~there is utilized the suction and underpressure is naturally created owing to the rotation of the by~~ agitation equipment installed in the different process steps.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the claim 1, wherein~~ dividing the feeding of ~~[[the]]~~a secondary gas is needed in the process ~~is divided~~ according to the separate process steps, so that the same secondary gas is fed to the different process steps.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1—4, characterized in that claim 1, wherein~~ the partial pressure of oxygen in ~~[[the]]~~a secondary gas needed in the process is changed between secondary gas additions fed in the different process steps.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ claim 1, wherein oxygen is added addition-needed for controlling the partial pressure of oxygen ~~is obtained~~ by feeding air in the process.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method according to any of the preceding claims 1—6, characterized in that the~~ claim 1, wherein oxygen is added addition-needed for controlling the partial pressure of oxygen ~~is obtained~~ by feeding oxygen in the process.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method according to any of the preceding claims 1—6, characterized in that the~~ claim 1, wherein oxygen is added addition-needed for controlling the partial pressure of oxygen ~~is obtained~~ by feeding oxygen enriched air in the process.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ claim 1, wherein an oxidizing gas contains ozone (O<sub>3</sub>).

11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the recirculation gas contains reducing gas.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method according to claim 11, characterized in that~~ wherein the recirculation gas contains hydrogen sulphide.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method according to claim 11, characterized in that~~ wherein the recirculation gas contains sulphur dioxide.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the grinding step of~~ claim 1, wherein the process comprises a grinding step that is closed in the gas circulation.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method according to any of the preceding claims 1—13, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the process comprises a flotation step used for mutually separating the minerals that is closed in the gas circulation.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method according to any of the preceding claims 1—13, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the precipitation step used for mutually separating the minerals is closed in the gas circulation.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method according to any of the preceding claims 1—13, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the process comprises a filtering step used for mutually separating the minerals that is closed in the gas circulation.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the potential of the slurry containing valuable minerals is measured by mineral electrodes.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The method according to any of the preceding claims 1—17, characterized in that in the measurement of claim 1, wherein the potential of the slurry containing valuable minerals~~[[,]]~~ is measured by impedance ~~is made use of.~~

20. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~The method according to any of the preceding claims 1—17, characterized in that in the measurement of claim 1, wherein the potential of the slurry containing valuable minerals~~[[,]]~~ is measured by reagent contents ~~are made use of.~~